

## Third Sunday in Lent



**Sunday, March 3, 2024**

Lutheran Church of the Living Christ  
2725 Concord Drive  
Florissant, MO 63033

## WELCOME

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, Creator of darkness and light, Word of truth,  
Spirit hovering over the waters.

**C: Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection*

P: God, our rock and refuge,

**C: we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us and inspire us to proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

**C: Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

ELW#324

## GREETING

P: Beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, through your Son, you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## FIRST READING Exodus 20:1-17

<sup>1</sup>God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

<sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your

towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

L: Word of God, Word of Life      **C: Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 19**

L: <sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

**C: <sup>2</sup>One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

L: <sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

**C: <sup>4</sup>their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

L: <sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**C: <sup>6</sup>It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

L: <sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**C: <sup>8</sup>The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

L: <sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous<sup>l</sup> altogether.

**C: <sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

L: <sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

**C: <sup>12</sup>Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

L: <sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**C: <sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

## **SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL READING** - *Please stand, as you are able, to welcome the gospel.*

P: The holy Gospel according to John, the 2nd chapter (verses 13-22)

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Following the reading the assembly is seated.*

**SERMON** Pastor Matt

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

"How Great Thou Art"

ELW#856

**PROFESSION OF FAITH** The First Article of the Apostles' Creed, *from Luther's Small Catechism*

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, CREATOR of heaven and earth.**

P: What does this mean?

**C: I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties. In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property—along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life.<sup>48</sup> God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land (*regions in conflict may be named*). Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family (*especially*). We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God, creator of generations, you have worked through families to bring faith, hope, and love since creation. Continue to nurture, guide, and inspire our family of faith, especially our brothers and sisters in the Crawley, Johnson, and Wilson families. Guide, protect, and build these families up in faith. Hear us, O God

**Your mercy is great.**

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

*Share God's peace in whatever way you and/or neighbors are comfortable.*

*Following the sharing of the peace the assembly is seated.*

## GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

## OFFERING AND PRAYER

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and wine, you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive your faith, hope, love, and are inspired to follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

## COMMUNION LITURGY

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise. Hosanna in the highest!**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

## LORD'S PRAYER

P: Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

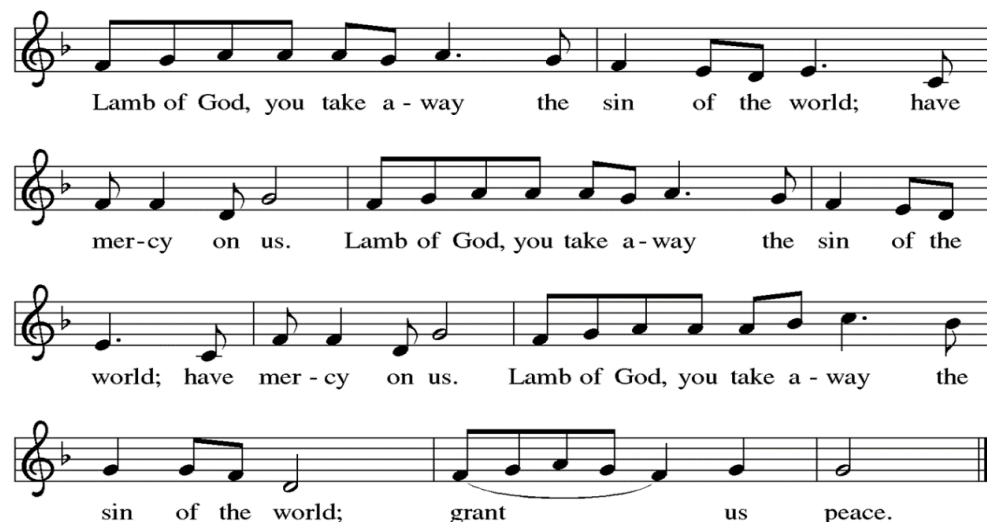
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: There is a place for you and all people at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

**C: Amen.**

### Lamb of God



**DISTRIBUTION** *Time is given for the sharing of bread and wine. Additional verbal directions will be given.*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

ELW#803

**BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you in God's grace unto eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

**PRAYER**

L: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

*\*(ANNOUNCEMENTS – Please see announcements at the end of this bulletin.)*

**BENEDICTION**

P: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD's face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. (Num. 6:24)

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

“God of Grace”

ELW#705

**DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. God is at work in you. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

arr. Larry Shackley

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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1. **Information session for Feed My Starving Children TODAY March 3, at 2 p.m. at Living Christ.** If you are interested in being part of the team for the July 12-13 mobile pack at Atonement, come and see what it is all about. Contact Randy Henning with questions or comments. Thanks!! Randy
2. **Chat with Pastor Matt** - Pastor is wanting to meet in-person with everyone connected to our congregation. Please sign up for a time, at church or other, on the sheet outside pastor's office. If over lunch, note that in your sign up. Contact Pastor Matt to schedule other times.
3. **MARCH LUNCH BUNCH** will meet on **March 7** at Irma Jean's Restaurant at 2109 Charbonier Rd. in Florissant at 11:30 am. Please contact Joyce Meyer at 314-374-4135 or [jameyer46@charter.net](mailto:jameyer46@charter.net) for reservations. Judy Holmes is looking forward to returning!
4. **Quilt-making with Girl Scouts** - Living Christ & Girl Scout Troop 994 service days. Thursdays @ 6:30-8:00 on Feb. 22, Mar. 21, and Apr. 25. “Create Days” will be to make quilt tops and backs at LCLC on several Friday mornings. See Kathy Endorf for more info. Thank you to everyone who has helped in this endeavor, it has been a wonderful experience for the Girl Scouts and Living Christ!!!
5. **Outreach-Crisis Nursery** - For February, Living Christ will be supporting St. Louis Crisis Nursery. The St. Louis Crisis Nursery provides a short-term, safe-haven for 4,000 children a year, birth through age 12, whose families face emergencies caused by illness, homelessness, domestic violence or overwhelming stress. Please write “Crisis Nursery” in the memo line of your check. Thank you for supporting this much needed ministry.

6. **LCLC Quilters only** - The following dates are "Create Days" for making the quilt tops and backs for the Living Christ/Girl Scout quilt-making coming up in March, & April. Fridays, Mar. 8 & 15, Apr. 5 & 12 @ 9-11 a.m.
7. **Easter Egg Hunt** is **Saturday, March 23 at 10 am**. Doughnuts, coffee, and juice will be provided. The Congregation Vitality Team is requesting donations of candy or small toys to place in the eggs. Please contact Cathie Lehr with questions. Thanks.
8. **Lent Midweek Fellowship** - Come and hear God's word, pray, and watch "The Chosen" every **Wed. at Noon**, followed by discussion if there is time. Feel free to BYO food and drink.
9. **Bob Fayman's memorial service** will be held @LCLC on **Saturday, March 16th**. Visitation at noon with Celebration of Life at 1 PM followed by refreshments.
10. **50+ GROUP will tour the So Museum at 126 N. Main Street in St. Charles, MO on Thur., March 14\***. We will carpool from church, leaving at 10:15 a.m. for a 45 minute guided tour starting at 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$10 per person at the Museum. Street parking is available. This is a new very interesting, educational, and fun private museum. Lunch will follow at Burger Underground located at 142 N. Main Street (two doors from the Museum). Sign-up sheet are posted on the bulletin board. We always have an enjoyable time and new people are always welcome. *\*Please note the date change.*

### **MARCH 3, 2024**

**Preaching/Presiding:** Pr. Matt

**Assisting Minister:** Bill Kaepffel

**Lector:** Donna Glennie

**Live Streaming:** Erle Craig

**Musician:** Greg Ott

**Ushers:** Glenn Albers & Ann Schultz

**Greeter:** Joyce Meyer

**Altar Guild:** Doris Stoechner, Bill Kaepffel & Marilyn Wiley

Families LCLC is keeping in prayer this week: Crawley family, Johnson family, and the Wilson family.

**Joyful Giving Note** - Lutheran Church of the Living Christ needs your help in ensuring its future ministry. Please include the church in your will and/or other estate plans. You may want to at least tithe (give 10%) of your estate to the Lord. Remember to include the church's name and address along with the amount of your bequest. Should you wish, the pastor will provide you with the name of a caring and capable professional who can assist you.

### **MARCH 10, 2024**

**Preaching/Presiding:** Pr. Matt

**Assisting Minister:** Angela Bennett

**Lector:** Bill Kaepffel

**Live Streaming:** Gary & Laurie Brown

**Musician:** David Eggers

**Ushers:** Levaughn & Sheila Smart

**Greeter:** Joyce Meyer

**Altar Guild:** Maureen Buchek & Marjorie Becker